

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-06

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R 191455Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5822

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 16909

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, XO, PFOR, IN, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: NAVAL SHIP VISITS

REF: NEW DELHI 15144

1. AS I WAS COMING OUT TO INDIA TWO YEARS AGO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN LAIRD ASKED IF I WOULD NOT TRY, DURING MY TOUR IN INDIA, TO ARRANGE A SHIP VISIT AND A CERTAIN RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY HERE. CERTAINLY AMBASSADOR BANE AND I HAVE WANTED TO DO THIS, AND HAVE DROPPED ENOUGH HINTS TO BOTH PARTIES. I DEPART, HOWEVER, WITH THIS TASKS STILL UNDONE, AND WITH THE FEELING THIS TIME IS STILL NOT AT HAND, GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S DISAPPROVING COMMENTS ON MIDLINK 74 AND DIEGO GARCIA IN THE PARLIAMENT, AND THE ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF THE POST MIDLINK UK-INDIAN NAVY EXERCISES.

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2. JUST TO PROVE THAT ALL IS NOT CONSISTENT IN INDIA, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE FRENCH CARRIER CLEMENCEAU IS NOW IN BOMBAY. (THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY.) WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT IN ARRANGING THE MODALITIES OF THE CALL THE GOI ASKED IF THE CARRIER WERE CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE FRENCH ASSURED THE GOI IT WAS NOT.

3. APPARENTLY THE BRITISH HAVE NOT ENTIRELY GIVEN UP EITHER. THE SAME SQUADRON THAT PARTICIPATED IN MIDLINK 74 WILL BE MAKING AN EASTERLY CIRCUIT SWINGING BACK TOWARD THE INDIA COAST IN APRIL OR MAY OF 1975. THE BRITISH ARE KEEPING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF SUGGESTING A SERIES OF EXERCISES WITH THE INDIAN NAVY AT THAT TIME.

4. WE SHALL KEEP WATCH ON OUR ALLIES' PLANS IN THE NEXT MONTHS. THE PUBLIC - AND OFFICIAL - REACTIONS LEADING UP TO AN DURING THESE POSSIBLE VISITS OR EXERCISES SHOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE. IN THE INTERIM MY RECOMMENDATION IS TO KEEP OUR OWN MASTHEADS JUST OVER THE HORIZON, BUT OUT OF SIGHT.

MOYNIHAN

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